

REMARKS

In the final Office Action mailed on December 14, 2004, the Examiner: indicated that claims 7-11, 21 and 33-35 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form; rejected claims 19-20 and 22-32 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,697,326 to Britton et al. ("Britton") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,115,545 to Mellquist ("Mellquist"); and rejected claims 1-6 and 12-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Britton in view of Mellquist and U.S. Patent No. 6,345,294 to O'Toole et al. ("O'Toole"). In this response, Applicant amends claims 7-11, 21, 33 and 34, and cancels claims 1-6, 12-20, and 22-32. As a result, claims 7-11, 21 and 33-35 are now pending. Further examination and review in view of the remarks below are respectfully requested.

The Examiner objected to claims 7-11, 21 and 33-35 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Applicant herein amends claims 7-11, 21, 33 and 34 to no longer depend from a rejected base claim in order to address the Examiner's concerns regarding claims 7-11, 21 and 33-35.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-6, 12-20, and 22-32 over Britton, either in combination with Mellquist or Mellquist and O'Toole. Applicant herein cancels claims 1-6, 12-20, and 22-32 making the Examiner's rejections moot.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 7-11, 21 and 33-35 are allowable and ask that this application be passed to allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or believes a telephone conference would expedite examination of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (206) 359-8000.

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

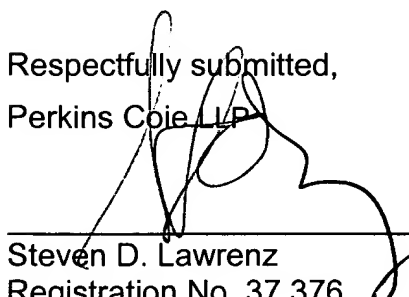
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE – Art Unit 2665

Attorney Docket No. 248588008US

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: April 14, 2005



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